

GUARANTEE
Your Money Back
If You Want It.
See Editorial Page, Column 1.

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French Lose, Then Win Back Fort Guarding Verdun

**TOWNS EASED
GAYNOR ANGER
FOR \$5,000 FEE**

**\$10,000 Asked in Bill
for Conveying Inter-
borough Wishes.**

**GILLESPIE KEEPS
HOLD ON PAPERS**

**Whitney Showed Favorit-
ism to the B. R. T., Sen-
ator Lawson Says.**

It was for removing a grudge from the late Mayor Gaynor that Mirabeau L. Towns earned the \$5,000 fee received from the Interborough. Until Mr. Towns testified before the Thompson committee yesterday the impression was that the post-lawyer received this sum for playing "courier and companion" to Theodore P. Shonts, president of the Interborough, on his trip to Mayor Gaynor's home at St. James. This was in 1910, when the city contemplated building and operating its own subway.

Mr. Towns, who seemed to enjoy the opportunity to explain this fee, which Mr. Shonts was unable to do with any degree of certitude when he was on the stand, said it pained him that the impression got abroad that the fee was not legitimately earned. And \$5,000 was far from too much for this work, for Mr. Towns rendered a bill for \$10,000, he testified.

Towns on Subway Mission.

"What was that work?" asked Frank M. Russell to the committee.

"Conveying to Mayor Gaynor the desires of the Interborough," said Mr. Towns. "Mayor Gaynor had written an article denouncing the scheme of the Interborough to set up a monopoly of the transit business in the city of New York. I had some knowledge of the situation, and my purpose was to convince Mayor Gaynor that his premises were wrong. I tried to convince him that it was the best thing for the city not to have competition with the Interborough."

"To whom did you report in the Interborough?"

"I reported at first to Mr. Campbell, of the Interborough. Mayor Gaynor was my friend. I had charge of the busy case against Police Commissioner Bingham, which resulted in making Judge Gaynor or prominent candidate for the mayoralty."

"Do you remember the suggestion of running the tunnel under the East River to the city?"

"Yes. That was one of the arguments I used. I tried to show Mayor Gaynor that it would be better to confer a great benefit on posterity than to cause an unreasonable grudge."

"Did you know that in July, 1911, months after your services ended, this matter came up in the Board of Estimate and Mayor Gaynor voted against the Interborough and used the term 'rascality'?" If that is so, your accomplishment didn't amount to much, did it?"

"It would seem so. I never had talks with Mayor Gaynor about this matter after May, 1910. These talks, forty or fifty of them, extended to that time from the previous October."

Emotion as Tube Builder.

"Can you tell us why Mayor Gaynor did not vote for these contracts?"

"Except that men are emotional. I cry to-day and laugh to-morrow. I was not in his thoughts. I never spoke to him again about subways."

Mr. Towns said that the meeting between the Mayor and Mr. Shonts had not been planned by either. Both, he said, wanted to meet to clear up the situation. Several other appointments were made that the Mayor or Mr. Shonts, because of their engagements, could not keep. He said he did not have to introduce the two, as the Mayor recognized Mr. Shonts when he stepped out of an automobile.

After Mr. Towns finished Senator Thompson stopped the proceedings and asked for a copy of the Tribune. After reading it, he said:

"I have just received a letter from William A. Read. I will read it."

Letter from W. A. Read.

Then he read:

"Dear Sir: I hand you herewith a copy of a letter I am today sending to the New York Tribune. In view

MARJORIE'S BATTLESHIP.



To the Editor of The Tribune.

Dear Sir: I read in your paper every morning a lot about preparedness. My grandpa and great-grandpa were soldiers. If I was a boy I would be a soldier, too. But I am not, so I want to do what I can to help. Mama gives me a dime every week for helping her. I am sending you this week's dime to help build a battleship for Uncle Sam. I know a lot of other kids who would give their errand money if you would start a fund. I am thirteen years old and go to Public School 9, Brooklyn. Yours truly,

MARJORIE STERRETT.

I am true blue American, and I want to see Uncle Sam prepared to lick all creation like John Paul Jones did.

P. S.—Please call the battleship America.

Since this letter was printed dimes and dollars have flowed into The Tribune office unceasingly. Other papers across the country have reprinted the letter and the dollars have flowed in upon them.

Marjorie has asked The Tribune to take care of her fund until it grows big enough to build a battleship or at least some kind of a ship worthy of the traditions of John Paul Jones. The Tribune cannot undertake to enter into correspondence about the fund. It will print a daily list of contributors, and every one who sends a dime or a dollar or a million dollars to The Tribune for the fund will receive a button bearing the legend, "U. S. S. America." That will be your receipt for a patriotic deed.

Total to date.....\$1,629.65
Number of contributors.....8,082

14 STATES HEED MARJORIE'S CALL

**Papers from Sacramento
to Boston Get Funds
for Battleship.**

Marjorie's battleship idea is sweeping the country.

Fourteen states are enlisted in the campaign. The editors of twenty-nine newspapers, from Boston to Sacramento, are already on the advisory committee. The scheme to build a battleship for the United States Navy by popular subscription has assumed national proportions.

The response of the editors has been even more amazing than the continued influx of dimes from the children. The plan has taken. As soon as the picture of the thirteen-year-old sponsor appeared on the first page of dailies from coast to coast the editors were quick to sense the popular appeal which lay beneath Marjorie's suggestion.

There is an enormous amount of dormant patriotism in the American people, of which the newspapers, with their fingers on the public's pulse, were already aware. It needed only the concrete idea—the pointing out of a definite method for its expression—to cause this feeling to burst out into flame. And although the response came chiefly from the children, the editors, realizing that patriotic adults were bound to follow, joined the ranks.

Chain of Papers at Work.

This is the answer to the folks who smile knowingly as they read the Marjorie story on the subway every morning, take out their pencils and figure a while up near the weather forecast and then announce that at the present rate it will take some 490 years.

Taking those same pencils in hand at the breakfast table this morning, all lovers of statistics are invited to consider how long it will take to raise \$10,000,000 if fifty newspapers undertake the task, how long if 100 papers work and how long if 500 dailies boost it? A paper could hope to raise such a sum alone, but, given a chain of papers, the plan becomes distinctly feasible.

Marjorie's picture had not appeared on the first page long before newspapers of other cities began wiring for

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PRIEST'S 'PEACE' STOPS GUN FIGHT IN SALOON

Gunmen Slink Away, Leaving Man Wounded.

Gunmen fighting in the back room of a saloon in Second Avenue, near Forty-seventh Street, ceased firing at a sudden, stern word of command last night. Through the haze of revolver smoke they saw a priest standing in the doorway. Gangsters and priest remained motionless for a moment. Then revolvers dropped as the gunmen slunk to the street.

The priest stepped aside to let them pass, then he left without disclosing his identity.

During the firing Hugh J. Chambers, twenty-one, of 1479 Lexington Avenue, was wounded in the leg.

British Raise Price of Sugar.

London, Feb. 26.—The British Royal Commission has advanced the price of sugar 2 shillings a hundred weight, dating from Monday next.

Jean Mounet-Sully Ill.

Paris, Feb. 26.—Jean Mounet-Sully, the tragedian of the Comédie Française, is gravely ill.

DEFENCE GUNS TO BE ARGUED WITH BERLIN

**Congress To Be Held
in Line Until Ger-
many Acts.**

**U-BOAT ATTACKS
MAY BE DELAYED**

**Italy's Reply to Lansing
Note on Armament
Called Evasive.**

Washington, Feb. 26.—With the admission at the State Department that negotiations with Germany would probably be begun to determine just what "defensive armament," as applied to a merchantman, means, the final quieting touch was applied to-day to the fear-ridden insurgency of Congress.

The prospect of another siege of note writing, instead of a real crisis, was welcomed by members of Congress who are now thoroughly ashamed of the panic of Wednesday and Thursday. This does not mean that all desire has passed for a surrender of American rights. There are still many, probably a majority in the House, who would warn Americans off armed liners. But the pressure for the passage of such a resolution, at least for the time being, has passed.

Only three days remain before German and Austrian submarine commanders will be instructed to treat armed merchant ships as war vessels. There was no indication to-day that issuance of the order, announced in formal notifications from the Central Powers for February 29, would be postponed, although it was admitted that a postponement would not come as a surprise.

Leaders in both houses of Congress who for several days have agitated passage of a resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed ships seemed convinced to-night that no such measure could be put through at present.

Senator Gore Satisfied.

Senator Gore, who has such a resolution pending, issued a statement saying that while he still favored a warning, he believed the objects sought by his resolution already had been accomplished through public discussion. Representative McElmore, whose warning resolution in the House has been kept from coming up by Administration leaders, said he was content to wait until the President and Secretary Lansing had an opportunity to try out their policy of asserting the right of travel in ships bearing arms.

Indicative of the determination to let the President conduct the international negotiations unhindered, Senator Lewis, of Illinois, to-day drafted a resolution stating the belief of Congress that the President was right in his present position, and voicing the confidence of Congress in him.

Leaders, including Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, at once sought Senator Lewis and prevented the introduction of the resolution. They pointed out that a refusal to pass a resolution which might embarrass the President and the passage of a resolution denying a stand in which only a minority of the President's own party concurs were two very different things.

Such a resolution, they estimated, would be voted down two to one, even in the Senate, for the Republicans could not be counted upon to cast a vote of confidence in the President's international policy. Besides, such a resolution, they pointed out, would raise the question "What is the President's international policy?" and would lead to comparisons which might be odious.

No Chance for Resolution.

In its effort to get through the water power bill, which has consumed all the time of the Senate this week, the Senate is recessing from day to day, so that no opportunity is given for routine business. This precludes the possibility of the discussion of any of the surrender resolutions now pending.

Friends of President Wilson declare that he will be as firm with Germany as he has been with Congress and will conduct his future negotiations on the belief that the people of the country prefer anything, even war, to a sacrifice of national honor. As with Congress, however, he will not force the fighting. This means that he will let the Lusitania case rest until the commission of some overt act by Germany.

If, however, a ship is sunk, with loss of American lives, the President intends to force an immediate disavowal or break off relations. He will not be inclined to quibble over technicalities.

SCENE OF THE GREAT DRIVE AT VERDUN.



The Crown Prince's army is now hammering at Verdun at three points—in the Meuse Valley, north of Fort Douaumont and from the southeast, at Marcheville. The full line indicates the German front before the drive began—the dotted line the present front.

KERMANSHAH FALLS TO CZAR

**Fortress Taken by Storm
and Russians Advance
to Aid British.**

London, Feb. 26.—From Persia comes the Russian announcement that the important city of Kermanshah has been taken by storm by Russian forces. Recent Petrograd advices have indicated an expectation that the southern movement of this Russian army might eventually link it up with the British operation in neighboring Mesopotamia.

The advance to Kermanshah places the Russian column within 150 miles of Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris, near which a British force is at present stalled on its march to the relief of General Townshend's beleaguered army at Kut.

The resistance which the Turkish forces retreating from Erzerum were offering to the advancing Russians apparently has frittered out on account of the general lack of ammunition and supplies. Unable to defend points of natural advantage, they are continuing their precipitate flight into the fastnesses of Asia Minor.

The loss of Ishpir, which was an important munition and food depot serving the right wing, the Turkish coast troops, and the left wing, the Erzerum forces, further crippled the power of Turkish resistance. It also cut off main road communication between Erzerum and Trebizond. This means that the Turkish troops which are retreating from Erzerum upon Trebizond can now only reach the coast through a difficult mountain district, where they will be within striking distance of the Russian Black Sea fleet, whose bombardment of the Armenian littoral continued.

The Turkish coast army, likewise cut off, is now in a precarious position, with the possibility of a Russian attack in its rear. Military experts agree that it is only a matter of a few days before the whole district formerly occupied by the Turkish left flank will become untenable.

The capture of Ishpir is pointed to as an example of the energy with which the Russians are continuing their successful pursuit of the retreating Turks.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the Central News Agency, which has taken place ten miles from Bitlis between Russian and Turkish troops, the former coming from the direction of Mush, declared that the Turks fought bravely, but were obliged to retire before superior forces.

EX-GERMAN SOLDIER LEAVES WOUNDED \$1,000

Dying in New Rochelle, He Remembers Old Corps.

John Christian Alton, of New Rochelle, at one time a member of the Tenth Army Corps of the German army, in his will filed in White Plains yesterday directed that \$1,000 be set aside for wounded members of the corps. It is to be spent through the Red Cross of Germany. One-half of the estate goes to his sister, Elsie Schwennack.

A bequest is left for Dr. Leo F. Hugel, of New Rochelle, of \$130 and his pick of 4,000 cigars from the stock of Alton's store in New Rochelle.

Germans Seek Political End by Verdun Drive

**Military Value of Fortress Overshadowed by Necessity
of Overawing Rumania and Maintaining
Ascendancy in the Balkans.**

Washington, Feb. 26.—What value has Verdun? Would its capture justify the heavy cost the invader is forced to pay? Military circles here are puzzled by these questions. The war, it has been said, must be fought out on the western front. Do the Germans consider this the decisive battle that will bring France to her knees? Or is the objective political rather than military?

Other Points More Vital than Verdun.

A high army official here pointed out to-day that the capture of Verdun was not of great military value to the Germans. True, he said, it is considered an impregnable fortress and a keystone of the French right wing. But it is 140 miles from Paris, and there are many points along the western front, nearer Paris, from which a drive toward Paris could be launched with more chance of success.

Last June the Crown Prince made an effort to take Verdun. He launched an attack in the Argonne, in an attempt to cut the railroad from Chalons to Metz, which supplies Verdun. That attempt failed and a direct attack on the fortress has now been begun.

If Verdun falls, the French would be compelled to retire only to the line of the Aire. What the capture of Verdun would accomplish would be to strengthen the German positions in the Argonne and in Champagne, where the vantage points won by the Allied offensive in September still menace the invader's line. The threat to St. Mihiel, where the Germans held a salient in the French line, and to Metz, the outworks of which can be reached by the heaviest French guns in Verdun, would be removed.

Suspect Move Is Political.

Viewed in this light, the move is defensive, rather than offensive. Possibly it means that the Germans are forestalling the threatened Allied offensive in the west. But as a move toward Paris it can hardly be considered significant. The line in the west is too long to permit of a flanking movement.

Another alternative is that the offensive is a political move. Rumania has been warring. If she threw her forces into the Balkan war the victory in Serbia would be wiped out. To convince Bucharest that the German army is still powerful may have been the object behind the offensive.

"In the plain of the Woerthe the enemy's resistance broke down along the entire front as far as the neighborhood of Marcheville, to the south of the national high road from Paris to Metz," says the German official statement to-day.

"The national high road from Paris to Metz" is the German objective, the statement implies. Should the French people see the Germans on the road to Paris, they would lose heart. Should Verdun fall, Rumania will still believe in the Teuton might. That seems to be the German reasoning. They can hardly contemplate seriously a move on Paris.

Fleet May Also Come Out.

The belief held in military circles here is that Germany has planned a grand display of fireworks. In this connection, we noted reports that the fleet is getting ready for a sail. With offensives on land and sea, the Germans, it is thought, have mapped out a demonstration that may impress the Allies into making peace.

As for the fight at Verdun, the Germans are confronted with the task of storming one series of hills after another. The Kaiser's troops, in their first attack on Verdun, swept down the Meuse valley for four miles. When they reached the outer cordon of fortresses they developed their attack along a wide front to the south and the east.

One army pushed on toward Fort Douaumont, and another down the plain of the Woerthe, to the east of the line, where the Germans claim to have broken the French resistance and to have taken Marcheville, south of the Paris-Metz highway.

Apparently the attack is being developed similar to the tactics employed with marked success in the campaign against the Russian fortified positions last summer. This bucking-up process aims to extend the lines on both sides of the point of attack and thus compel the evacuation of the fortresses.

The fortifications of Verdun form a labyrinth, with great subterranean passages in rocks hundreds of feet below the earth's surface. The best description of these was given by a correspondent who visited the front as late as January 14. He said:

"The Verdun forts are most important strategically. Observers on constant guard have a view of the plain of the Woerthe and of little villages dotting the territory separating them from the enemy positions. Entering a tunnel lighted by candles, one reaches the place where the guns are manipulated. A storeroom adjoining is filled with melinite shells, giving some idea of the damage which could be inflicted. Namur and Liege have demonstrated what reliance can be placed on fortified defenses against the heaviest modern guns."

"Barbed wire trenches here, as elsewhere, play a prominent part. This region is well furnished with these protective devices. There has been comparatively little firing from the large guns of the forts, but their moral effect has been considerable."

"Though the German possess St. Mihiel, the French believe that by their control of the strongly fortified natural positions in this neighborhood they have the upper hand. The first line trenches in this district are very close, but the French have an advantage in possessing positions in the rear of their second and third line trenches which are on high ground and dominate those of their adversaries."

KAISER'S TROOPS ASSAIL LINE AT THREE POINTS

**Attack Stronghold Four Miles
from Fortress—Begin Thrust
on Southeast.**

**DOUAUMONT IS HELD ONLY
FEW HOURS BY TEUTONS**

**Brandenburgers Lose Heavily in Storming
Fort—Joffre's Men Wrest It Back
and Push on Beyond.**

London, Feb. 26.—Fort Douaumont, four miles northeast of Verdun, captured by the Germans this morning, was won back by the French this afternoon. The battle for the stronghold was the fiercest that has been fought since the Crown Prince launched his drive at Verdun, last Tuesday.

Early in the day the Brandenburg regiments, under the eye of their Emperor, began the assault. Under fire of the guns on the west bank of the Meuse and shelled by the heavy artillery of the fort, they swept across the open plain. The heavily massed troops fell in rows under the fierce French fire, but the advance did not halt. In a final fierce effort they reached the crest and took the fort. They had made the first breach in the cordon of protecting forts.

FRENCH VERDUN LOSSES TRIFLING

**Total Less than Germans
Claim in Prisoners.
Paris Announces.**

Paris, Feb. 26.—Paris is extraordinarily calm in the presence of the great battle now in progress around Verdun. There are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevails.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the line seems to be that the attacks should continue, for they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

The whole front, from the North Sea to Switzerland, is on the alert and all leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made. The total French losses in killed, wounded and prisoners since the Verdun battle began, it was authoritatively stated this evening, have been less than the German official communication claims in prisoners.

The military review of "Le Temps," which is usually written by General Delacour, sums up the situation thus: "The battle being fought is extremely serious. Even should the heights of Poivre and the Vauche Wood be taken, the enemy would find us perhaps stronger on the Froidevaux-Douaumont line, from which begin the defenses, properly speaking, of the fortress, covered with trenches and batteries. This is a siege by the Germans. It is a battle against one of our armies in the garrison at Verdun, and its forts do not figure in these combats as a support. The big guns of the enemy might destroy the fort of Douaumont without destroying anything more than an inert block of cement."

"The snow has not caused any diminution of the attacks because they cannot be suspended. They must be continued to the end. The troops engaged would be unable to remain idle long in the territory captured while awaiting better weather conditions. A thaw would render their situation worse, and it must already be painful."

The paper refers to the possibility of the attacks continuing for two weeks, and adds: "Let us continue to have complete and unshakable confidence in the final issue."

KAISER'S DASH TO FLEET MAY MEAN SEA DRIVE

**Emperor Rushed to Wilhelms-
haven for Naval Conference.**

Copenhagen, Feb. 26.—The Wilhelmshaven "Zeitung" states that Emperor William arrived at Wilhelmshaven on Wednesday morning and inspected the warships there. The Emperor conferred with the commanders of the North Sea fleet and departed the same evening.

The Verdun attack was reported to have been preceded by a visit of Emperor William to the German west front.

The Emperor's departure from the Verdun sector to Wilhelmshaven, more than two hundred miles distant, has not been intimated before, but recent reports of unusual activity in the German fleet have given rise to speculation that a dash into the North Sea may be contemplated.

Paris, however, disputes these gains. The French statement says: "In the region to the north of Verdun this afternoon. Hardly had the Germans established themselves on the crest than the battle was resumed. Joffre's men pushed on again, and, aided by the fire of the guns of the supporting forts, succeeded in wresting back the position. They won the crest and then forged on toward the plain."

Struggle Spreads to Woerthe.

"A furious struggle has been in progress around Fort Douaumont, which is an advance element of the old defensive organization of Verdun Fortress," says the statement issued at Paris to-night. "The position captured this morning by the enemy, after several fruitless assaults which cost him extremely heavy losses, was reached again and gone beyond by our troops, which all the attempts of the enemy have not been able to push back."

Under the eyes of their Emperor, whose presence at the front is officially announced, the German infantry has advanced to the charge on both sides of the salient wherein lies Verdun, and, according to Berlin, has stormed and taken the outlying fort of Douaumont, northeast of the fortress, while on the plain of the Woerthe, to the east and southeast, it has swept back the French lines and broken their resisting power along a wide front, forcing them to retreat, with the Germans in pursuit."

The Crown Prince's armies engaged in the terrific battle have had their way blasted out for them, according to correspondents near the scene, by what is said to be the greatest concentration of artillery fire known to history, in which the monster guns of the Germans and Austrians, brought from the Serbian and Russian fronts, have played an important part.

Seek to Buckle Up Defence.

With this mighty and the infantry have pushed down the Valley of the Meuse, gained the hills southwest of Louvemont, not more than four miles from the fortress, and carried fortified positions to the east, Berlin declares.

While this was going on, the Germans in the Woerthe were assailing the French lines on the eastern side of the salient, the two operations apparently being designed to push in the sides of the projecting front—a buckling process, which, if kept up, would soon result in the fall of the fortress.

"East of the Meuse considerable advances were made on the latter front in the presence of the Emperor," says the German statement. "Our brave troops gained possession of the hills southwest of the village of Louvemont and the group of fortified positions situated to the east thereof. In the fierce rush forward Brandenburg regiments pushed on as far as the village and armored fort of Douaumont, which they carried by storm."

"In the plain of the Woerthe the enemy's resistance broke down along the entire front as far as the neighborhood of Marcheville (Marcheville), to the south of the national highway from Paris to Metz. Our troops are closely pursuing the retreating enemy."

Paris, however, disputes these gains. The French statement says: "In the region to the north of Verdun

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A Cat and a Camera

A lady bought an "Angora" cat—which it wasn't. A man had a camera—which went bad. And thereby hang two tales.

Samuel Hopkins Adams tells them this morning, and in the telling shows concretely how the Bureau of Investigations works. You will find the article illuminating. Turn to Page 14.

The Sunday Tribune

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